

but because of the sexism against women, could not get a paying job as a lawyer.

After turning down a paid position as a legal secretary, Sandra Day O'Connor began her legal career working as an unpaid attorney for the San Mateo County Attorney's Office, where quickly she proved her merit and eventually was promoted to Deputy County Attorney.

In 1954, Sandra Day O'Connor left California to work in Frankfurt, Germany as a civilian attorney for the Quartermaster Masker Center, a site abroad for the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps.

In 1957, she returned to the United States, settled in Arizona with her husband, and started a private practice with another attorney.

Eight years later, she began working as the Assistant Attorney General of Arizona.

In 1969, Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Arizona State Senate to fill a vacated seat and was elected to that seat in her own right in 1970.

Sandra Day O'Connor was reelected twice and was chosen by her colleagues to become the first female majority leader in any state senate.

In 1975, Sandra Day O'Connor won election to the Superior Court of Maricopa County, and was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court of Appeals four years later.

Sandra Day O'Connor served as an Arizona State Supreme Court Justice for only two years before President Ronald Reagan nominated her in 1981 to become the first female justice to serve on the United States Supreme Court.

Politically, she was canny—and exhibited it well during her Senate confirmation hearings.

She gracefully navigated politically precarious questions from senators but made her points, on national television, of noting her commitments to reduce crime and fix overloaded federal courts.

She was confirmed unanimously by the Senate.

Despite her breast cancer diagnosis and a mastectomy, Justice Day O'Connor did not miss a day of court.

Over the course of her 24 years on the court, the conservative justice became known as a moderating voice of reason.

Sandra Day O'Connor was known for being a majority builder whenever possible, but also for being a swing vote in critical cases such as *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 306 (2003).

It truly can be said that Justice Sandra Day O'Connor served as an inspiration for women around the world.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor broke down barriers for women in the legal profession to the betterment of that profession and the country as a whole.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor serves as a role model not only for girls and women, but for all those committed to equal justice under law.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable career and achievement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, an extraordinary American who was and remains an inspiration to millions of people all over the world.

RECOGNIZING THE 185TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JAMES AT SAG BRIDGE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LEMONT

## HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor St. James at Sag Bridge Catholic Church on the parish's 185th anniversary. The oldest functioning church in northern Illinois serves almost 500 families who "bear witness to Jesus Christ by loving and serving one another to bring about the Kingdom of God."

St. James at Sag Bridge Church in Lemont is the sole country parish of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. In 1833 a rough log cabin served as the church building where Chicago's first resident priest John Mary Irenaeus St. Cyr held mass for both Irish immigrants and 300 local Potawatomi Native Americans. Twenty years later in 1853, with the congregation growing in size, Bishop James Oliver Van de Velde laid the cornerstone of a new building built with limestone from a nearby quarry. From there, St. James at Sag Bridge operated as a mission church until 1882, when Reverend Joseph A. Bollman became the first permanent pastor. Numerous additions have been made to the church and the parish grounds over the years, but the 1853 stone church building stands proud and tall today, a testament to the faith of all the parishioners who have worshipped here for all these years.

The church has survived numerous dangers, including not only harsh winters but also dynamite blasting of the nearby canal and a 1991 tornado that did serious damage to the church building. In doing so, the parish has established itself as a symbol of endurance and the church stands as an important heritage site. St. James at Sag Bridge and its neighboring cemetery are registered as parts of the Illinois and Michigan Canal Heritage Corridor, and in 1984, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

St. James' current pastor, Fr. Thomas Koys, maintains not only strong, faithful leadership of the parish, but has also founded the St. James Historical Society to celebrate the history of the church as well as the American history that the church has lived through. In July 2014, I had the honor of welcoming Fr. Koys as the Guest Chaplain in the House of Representatives where he delivered the day's opening prayer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. James at Sag Bridge Church and its parishioners on the 185th anniversary of the parish's establishment. I look forward to joining in the celebration.

ALAMO: PRESERVING HISTORY

## HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Alamo is the most important place in Texas and in Texas History.

It is the definition of all things Texan.

It is about the people.

The Texians—The Tejanos who gave their last full measure of devotion to a cause greater than life itself—Liberty.

It is about the beginning of our 9 years as a sovereign Republic.

It is a symbol of the fierce independent streak that runs through our veins.

Behind those crumbling church walls of the Alamo, there is a spirit that has forever shown the world shown who we are as Texans—our character: defiant, bold, fearless, fighters for freedom.

The Alamo instills yet today an almost mystical spirit in all Texans native, and recent arrivals of pride.

187 Volunteers of all races; frontiersmen, lawyers, farmers, shopkeepers; men from Spain, Mexico, Germany, Scotland, England, most of the states and native Texians who were led by my hero Colonel William Barrett Travis, stood in righteous defiance against a dictator and tyranny.

Such men as Davy Crockett (Tennessee), José Gregorio Esparza (Tejano), James Bonham (South Carolina), James Bowie (Louisiana), and Brigido Guerrero (Mexican soldier that switched sides) and 180 more, stood their ground against the invaders.

All have personal stories.

Knowing and despite of the overwhelming odds, those Texians and Tejanos fell to their death rather than submit to oppression.

They first embodied the phrase "Don't Mess with Texas."

It is quite a remarkable story.

No people anywhere have such a history of how they all, gave all.

From the ashes of the burning Alamo—the phoenix of a republic was born, because of these Freedom Fighters of 1836.

After the Battle of the Alamo, Texas gained independence on the plains of San Jacinto where Sam Houston and his boys defeated the invaders.

Then, Texas remained an independent nation for nine years.

I first came to the Alamo as a kid in Mrs. Wilson's Texas history class in Houston.

A lot has changed since then.

It has changed even more since 1836.

There was no Five and Dime Woolworths store across the street.

Neither was there a tattoo parlor.

Colonel Travis didn't buy a \$54.99 combo ticket for Ripley's Believe It or Not either.

The years of encroachment and commercialization of sacred ground, where the blood of the Sons of Texas consecrated the land should be a deep concern for all Texans and Americans, not just the citizens of the great city of San Antonio.

As Land Commissioner George P. Bush said, "When people visit the Alamo, almost all are underwhelmed with the small size of the Alamo grounds."

Visionary, Land Commissioner George P. Bush has presented a bold plan to restore the Alamo battlefield to much of what it was in 1836.

I strongly support the efforts of Commissioner Bush, Mayor Nirenburg, and the San Antonio City Council on approval of the Alamo Master Plan to make sure Texans, and the world visitors know that our history is like no other place—because there is but one Alamo.

San Antonio recently approved leasing land to the State of Texas to implement this plan.